

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013440
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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:TGMARTIN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 013440

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 0801 ACTION STATE JAN 18.

QUOTE S E C R E T MOSCOW 0801

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: PNG OF DONALD KURSCH

REF: A. STATE 11051; B. MOSCOW 0753

1. ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SKOUG EXPECTS THAT
NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS FACILITATION MEETING WITH DEPUTY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO MAY BE SCHEDULED
IN NEAR FUTURE. SINCE THESE MEETINGS ARE USUALLY
SCHEDULED BY MANZHULO WITH LITTLE PRIOR NOTICE,
REQUEST PRIOR APPROVAL TO READ PROTEST OF KURSCH
PNG AT NEXT MEETING IF RPT IF KURSCH SHOULD BE
EXPELLED BEFORE MEETING OCCURS. SUGGESTED TEXT

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 013440

FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN DRAFT TEXT:

MY GOVERNMENT STRONGLY PROTESTS THE ENTIRELY
UNWARRANTED ACTION OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS IN DECLARING DONALD KURSCH, A FIRST SECRETARY

OF EMBASSY AND AN OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. COMMERCIAL
OFFICE, PERSONA NON GRATA.

MR. KURSCH DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG. THE
MINISTRY'S DEMARCHE OFFERED NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF
IMPROPER BEHAVIOR. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ACTION HAS
EQUATED A VALUABLE OFFICER AND DIPLOMAT DOING
IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL WORK WITH A LOW-RANKING SOVIET
EMBASSY NON-DIPLOMAT, MR. AVDYUNIN, WHO ENGAGED IN
ESPIONAGE, THE EVIDENCE OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED IN
DETAIL TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN
WASHINGTON WAS INVITED ON JANUARY 7 TO THE FACT THAT
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONVEYED STRONG ORAL MESSAGES
IN 1972 AND 1973 THAT COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN BOTH
CAPITALS THEN BEING ESTABLISHED MUST NOT BE USED FOR
INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES. OUR OFFICE HAS ABIDED BY
THIS CODE. THE ACTIVITIES OF MR. AVDYUNIN, ON THE OTHER
HAND, CLEARLY VIOLATED THE UNDERSTANDING.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, OUR COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN
MOSCOW, WHICH IS THE EQUIVALENT OF YOUR TRADE REPRESENTATION
IN WASHINGTON, IS PRESENTLY STAFFED BY FOUR
OFFICERS AND TWO AMERICAN STAFF PERSONNEL. THE LOSS
OF MR. KURSCH SERIOUSLY IMPAIRS THE FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 013440

AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMERCIAL PROGRAM IN THE
SOVIET UNION. IT IS ALSO A NEW AND NEEDLESS OBSTACLE
TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR TRADE RELATIONS. FINALLY,
IT IS TOTALLY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE ATTEMPTS WE HAVE
BEEN MAKING HERE AND IN WASHINGTON TO PUT OUR COMMERCIAL
RELATIONSHIP ON A BETTER BASIS. END DRAFT TEXT.

3. PLEASE ADVISE. MATLOCK UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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